47050 Generals Hwy. Three Rivers, CA 93271

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Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

For Immediate Release: January 20, 2011

Contact: Dana M. Dierkes Phone Number: (559) 565-3131

Public Comments Requested about Proposed Additional Phases of Construction along the Generals Highway

The National Park Service (NPS) is seeking public comments, including any concerns and potential issues, about the proposed rehabilitation and resurfacing of 7 miles of the Generals Highway, one of two main access roads into Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and the only year-round access for visitors traveling to Sequoia National Park. Public comments will be used in the development of an environmental assessment to evaluate alternatives and analyze the effects of the project, which would extend from Deer Ridge (12.5 miles from the Sequoia National Park entrance station off of Hwy. 198) to Wolverton Road (19.5 miles from the Sequoia National Park entrance station off of Hwy. 198). The project, which is expected to start in the spring of 2013 and last 3-4 years, would involve excavation and replacement of the road bed and surface; replacement of existing pavement; rehabilitation or replacement of drainage structures; redesign of drainage; replacement of asphalt curbs and guardrails; and the rehabilitation and building of road shoulders, as necessary. Rehabilitation work would also be done on selected turnouts and scenic overlooks. Without this project, continued deterioration of the highway – which has been in continuous use since 1935 – would result in damage to the adjacent environment, higher maintenance costs, loss of historic features, and hazardous driving conditions.

More information about the proposed project is available online at the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment website at http://parkplanning.nps.gov/seki under "Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks." All comments must be received in writing by February 22, 2011. Comments may be submitted at this website by clicking on "Open for Comment" in the bar on the left-hand side. In addition, comments may be submitted by fax at 559-565-4202 or via mail or hand-delivery to:

Superintendent

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

Attn: Generals Highway Project

47050 Generals Highway

Three Rivers, CA 93271

Note: It is the practice of the NPS to make all comments, including the names and addresses of those who comment, available for public review in their entirety after the close of the National Environmental Policy Act process. However, individuals not representing businesses or organizations may request that the NPS withhold their names and/or addresses from the record. The NPS will honor this request to the extent allowable by law, but you should be aware that your comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time.

For questions, please contact 559-565-3131.

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